IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 37.   (cancelled)

38.   (currently amended) A   method   for   distribution   of content, the method comprising:

receiving,   from   a   user   terminal,   a   request   that includes content specifying information which specifies the content desired by a user;

transmitting   the   content   specifying   information   to   a content provider;

obtaining   the   specified   content   from   the   content provider;

encrypting the specified content using a content key;

adding   a   content   ID   of   the   specified   content   to   the encrypted content;

transmitting   the   encrypted   content   and   the   added content ID through the user terminal to a player;

generating a use condition associated with the content ID   for   specifying   use   of   the   specified   content   in accordance with the use condition; and

at   a   time   subsequent   to   the   transmitting   of   the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to the player,

receiving, when the user wishes to reproduce the encrypted content using the player, a request for the content key and the use condition from the player through the user terminal, the request including the content ID,

in response thereto, transmitting the content key and the use condition through the user terminal to the player,

receiving, from the player through the user terminal, an encoded message ~~indicating~~ confirming

that the player has received the content key and the use condition, and

    decoding the encoded message to confirm that the player has received the content key and the use condition.

39. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising generating the content key.

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising compressing the specified content.

41. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising encrypting the content key prior to the transmitting of the content key so that an unauthorized apparatus is unable to decrypt the encrypted content.

42. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising:

    executing a process to share a session key with the user; and

    encrypting the use condition using the session key prior to the transmitting of the use condition.

43. (currently amended) An apparatus for administering distribution of content, the apparatus comprising:

    an administration center, including:

      content administration means including control means for receiving, from a user terminal, a request that includes content specifying information which specifies the content desired by a user,

      administration means including control means for transmitting the content specifying information to a content provider, and for obtaining the specified content from the content provider,

      the content administration means including content encoding and compressing means for encrypting the specified content using a content key,

the control means of the administration means for adding a content ID of the specified content to the encrypted content,

the control means of the content administration means for transmitting the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to a player, ~~and for generating a use condition associated with the content ID for specifying use of the specified content in accordance with the use condition,~~

the administration means including communications means for receiving~~center~~, at a time subsequent to the control means of the content administration means transmitting ~~of~~ the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to the player, ~~receiving~~ a request for the content key and ~~the~~ a use condition from the player through the user terminal when the user wishes to reproduce the encrypted content using the player, the request including the content ID, the use condition being associated with the content ID and specifying use of the specified content, and

the communications means of the administration means, in response thereto, transmitting the content key and the use condition through the user terminal to the player, receiving~~,~~ an encoded message from the player through the user terminal, ~~an~~ the encoded message ~~indicating~~ confirming that the player has received the content key and the use condition, and decoding the encoded message to confirm that the player has received the content key and the use condition.

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44. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the content administration means ~~center~~ generates the content key.

45. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the content administration means ~~center~~ compresses the specified content.

46. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the administration center includes communication statement encoding/decoding means for encrypting~~s~~ the content key prior to the communications means of the administration means transmitting the content key so that an unauthorized apparatus is unable to decrypt the encrypted content.

47. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the administration center ~~executes a process to share a session key with the user, and~~ includes communication statement encoding/decoding means for encrypting~~s~~ the use condition using ~~the~~ a session key shared with the user prior to the communications means of the administration means transmitting the use condition.

48. (currently amended) An apparatus for administering distribution of content, the apparatus comprising:

an administration center that receives, from a user terminal, a request that includes content specifying information which specifies the content desired by a user, that transmits the content specifying information to a content provider, that obtains the specified content from the content provider, that encrypts the specified content using a content key, that adds a content ID of the specified content to the encrypted content, that transmits the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to a player, and that generates a use condition associated with the content ID for specifying use

of the specified content in accordance with the use condition;

the administration center, at a time subsequent to the transmitting of the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to the player, receives a request for the content key and the use condition from the player through the user terminal, the request including the content ID when the user wishes to reproduce the encrypted content using the player, and in response thereto, transmits the content key and the use condition through the user terminal to the player, receives, from the player through the user terminal, an encoded message ~~indicating~~ confirming that the player has received the content key and the use condition, and decodes the encoded message to confirm ~~verify~~ that the player has received the content key and the use condition.

49. (previously presented)   The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the administration center generates the content key.

50. (previously presented)   The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the administration center compresses the specified content.

51. (previously presented)   The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the wherein the administration center encrypts the content key before transmitting the content key so that an unauthorized apparatus is unable to decrypt the encrypted content.

52. (previously presented)   The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the administration center executes a process to share a session key with the user, and encrypts the use condition using the session key before the transmitting unit transmits the use condition.